



ACF continues to invest in maintenance and improvement of Arikok National Park



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PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm	MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	RICKY THOMAS GUITARIST 7:00 - 9:00pm	EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm



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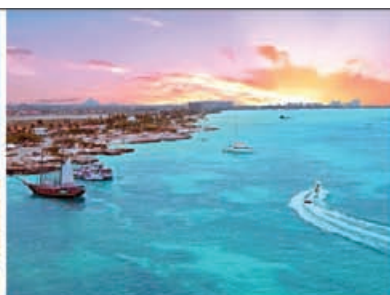
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Your dream home in Aruba starts with a conversation!

Feds say agents went to LA schools to do welfare check on migrant children

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Homeland Security officers visited two Los Angeles public elementary schools this week to do a welfare check on migrant children, not for immigration enforcement, the department said Friday. The officers were denied access by both principals. The department's explanation followed harsh criticism by Superintendent Alberto Carvalho of the Los Angeles Unified School District, who said the agents lied to school staff that they had been authorized by the children's parents and caretakers to go to their schools.

"We have confirmed that that is a falsehood," Carvalho said at a news conference on Thursday. "We've spoken with the caretakers of these children, in some cases parents, and they deny any interaction with these entities, and certainly deny providing authorization for these individuals to have any contact with these children at the school." President Donald Trump's



Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent Alberto Carvalho gives a DNA lesson in an enrichment biology class at Panorama High School during the district's first "acceleration days" on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022, in Panorama City, Calif.

Associated Press

immigration policies have vastly expanded who is eligible for deportation and lifted a ban on immigration enforcement in schools. In Chicago in January, a school mistakenly said federal immigration authorities had come to campus. Offi-

cials later said it was officials from the U.S. Secret Service investigating a threat, but the false alarm raised fears among immigrant communities. The Department of Homeland Security oversees U.S. Immigration and Customs

Enforcement, but ICE agents were not the officers sent to the schools. DHS stated in an email to The Associated Press that agents with its Homeland Security Investigations agency "were at these schools conducting well-

ness checks on children who arrived unaccompanied at the border. This had nothing to do with immigration enforcement." Homeland Security Investigations conducts criminal investigations into drugs and arms smuggling, cyber crime, human trafficking and child exploitation, among other things. It added that "DHS is leading efforts to conduct welfare checks on these children to ensure that they are safe and not being exploited, abused, and sex trafficked." Employees of Los Angeles Unified School District, the nation's second-largest district, were trained months ago in anticipation of arrivals by federal agents to campuses, Carvalho said. Four federal officers arrived Monday morning to Russell Elementary and identified themselves as Homeland Security agents, Carvalho said. They then asked about four students ranging from first-graders to sixth-graders. □

Federal judge sides with Trump in allowing immigration enforcement in houses of worship

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**
and **MICHAEL KUNZELMAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Friday sided with the Trump administration in allowing immigration agents to conduct enforcement operations at

houses of worship despite a lawsuit filed by religious groups over the new policy. U.S. District Judge Dabney Friedrich in Washington refused to grant a preliminary injunction to the plaintiffs, more than two dozen Christian and Jewish groups rep-

resenting millions of Americans. She found that only a handful of immigration enforcement actions have been conducted in or around churches or other houses of worship and that the evidence doesn't show "that places of worship are being singled out as special targets." The groups argued the policy violated the right to practice their religion. Since President Donald Trump took office in January, attendance has declined significantly, with some areas showing double-digit percentage drops, they said. The judge, though, found that the groups had not shown their drops were definitively linked to the church policy specifically, as opposed to broader increased actions by Im-

migration and Customs Enforcement or other agencies. "That evidence suggests that congregants are staying home to avoid encountering ICE in their own neighborhoods, not because churches or synagogues are locations of elevated risk," wrote Friedrich, who was appointed by the Republican president during his first term. That means that simply reversing the policy on houses of worship wouldn't necessarily mean immigrants would return to church, she found. On Jan. 20, his first day back in office, Trump's administration rescinded a Department of Homeland Security policy limiting where migrant arrests could happen. Its new policy said field agents using "common sense" and

"discretion" can conduct immigration enforcement operations at houses of worship without a supervisor's approval. Plaintiffs' attorneys claimed the new Homeland Security directive departs from the government's 30-year-old policy against staging immigration enforcement operations in "protected areas" or "sensitive locations." The ruling comes as Trump's immigration crackdown hits courtrooms around the country. On Thursday alone, another judge cleared the way for the administration to require people in the country illegally to register with the government even as the Supreme Court ordered the administration to work to bring back a man mistakenly deported to prison in El Salvador. □



A sign that prohibits the entrance of ICE or Homeland Security is posted on a door at St. Paul and St. Andrew United Methodist Church in New York, Jan. 21, 2025.

Associated Press

Tortillas fall flat in New Mexico, but will California add Bigfoot to its list of state symbols?

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— A proposal to designate the tortilla as New Mexico's official state bread had unanimous support from lawmakers. On Friday, though, it ended up falling flat. It wasn't because Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham isn't a fan of the round wraps that have long been a staple of Mexican, Central American and Southwestern U.S. cooking. It was because she believes lawmakers missed opportunities to debate bills that deal with weightier matters as the state faces extraordinary challenges.

"Of course, I enjoy celebrating our unique culture," she wrote in her veto message, ticking off numerous official state symbols and songs that New Mexico has adopted over the years.

"The question should not be how many more symbols we can collect but whether we are meeting the moment with the gravity it demands," she continued. "We are living in perilous and unprecedented times. The stakes for our state have never been higher."

New Mexico's lawmakers



Jasmine Perez holds up a fresh tortilla while standing at the pickup window inside Garcia's Kitchen in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on Thursday, April 10, 2025.

Associated Press

were hardly alone in wanting to pad their state's list of symbols this legislative season. Georgia lawmakers recently passed a bill to recognize cornbread as their state's official bread. The Oregon Legislature, meanwhile, is considering adopting the T-bone steak as an official symbol. And there's a proposal in California to

name Bigfoot the state's official cryptid—a creature that has never been proven to exist.

Striking a balance?

Legislating isn't always about taxes, tariffs and other serious issues. Lawmakers sometimes yearn for levity and the rare chance to find common ground.

With the push to adopt the

tortilla, which was proposed by Las Cruces fourth-grader Adaline McIntosh, lawmakers debated the kinds of flour needed for the perfect specimen. Their conclusion: It depends on the meal. They also got a history lesson from state Sen. Benny Shendo, a member of Jemez Pueblo tribe who explained that the first bread

in what is now New Mexico was made by Pueblo people who cooked blue corn paste on a hot stone.

State Sen. Cindy Nava talked about growing up on her mother's homemade tortillas.

"This is much bigger than a simple piece of legislation," Nava told fellow lawmakers. "This is culture and this is cultural awareness that we desperately need."

From cattle to cocktails

Official state symbols date to the late 1800s, as legislatures throughout the U.S. sought to stake cultural claims and foster pride among their residents. First came flowers and flags. Then came fossils and foods, with the practice growing into a clever marketing tool to boost conversation and commerce.

Oregon already has an official state nut, fruit and pie. But adopting the T-bone would recognize the role that cattle has played in the state's development and its contribution to the economy, supporters say. It's all about Nashville hot chicken in Tennessee, where a proposal calls for making the popular dish an official state food, joining hot slaw and Memphis barbecue. □

Trump wants Congress to end the changing of clocks and keep the country on daylight saving time



The sun rises above the Lincoln Memorial with the Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol in the background, March 13, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

By MICHELLE L. PRICE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday urged Congress to "push hard for more Daylight at the end of a day" in his latest dig at the semiannual changing of clocks.

Trump, in a post on his Truth Social media network, said it would be "Very popular and, most importantly, no more changing of the clocks, a big inconvenience and, for our government, A VERY COSTLY EVENT!!!" The Republican president's position calling for more daylight would push the schedule forward, keeping the country on daylight saving time. His post came a day after a Senate panel heard testimony examining whether to set one time all year instead of shifting.

There has been growing interest in states to standardize daylight saving time in recent years.

But daylight saving time, when clocks are set from spring to fall one hour ahead of standard time, is still recognized in most parts of the country. It was first adopted as a wartime measure in 1942.

Trump last year called for the Republican Party to eliminate daylight saving time, saying it was "inconvenient, and very costly to our Nation."

But he backed off that call last month, with another post on social media calling it a "50-50 issue."

The president said some people would like more light later in the day but some want more light early so they don't have to take their kids to school in the dark.

"When something's a 50-50 issue, it's hard to get excited about it," he said.

The Senate in 2022 unanimously approved a measure that would make daylight saving time permanent across the United States, but it did not advance. □

Judge refuses to dismiss Central Park Five's defamation case against President Trump

By **MARC LEVY**

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A federal judge has rejected President Donald Trump's effort to dismiss a defamation lawsuit against him filed by the men formerly known as the Central Park Five who were exonerated after spending more than a decade in prison for the 1989 rape and beating of a woman who was jogging. U.S. District Judge Wendy Beetlestone in Philadelphia denied Trump's motion to dismiss in a brief Thursday night order.

The five men sued Trump in the midst of last fall's presidential election campaign, accusing him of making "false and defamatory statements" about them during the Sept. 10 debate in Philadelphia with then-Vice President Kamala Harris.

Trump misstated key facts of the case when Harris brought up the matter, saying "They admitted, they said, they pled guilty. And I said, 'well, if they pled guilty they badly hurt a



This combination of file photo shows, clockwise from top left, Raymond Santana, Yusef Salaam, Antron McCray, Korey Wise and Kevin Richardson, known as Central Park five.

Associated Press

person, killed a person ultimately. And if they pled guilty then they pled we're not guilty," Trump said. The men Yusef Salaam, Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Raymond Santana and Korey Wise never pleaded guilty; they were convicted after jury trials.

Also, no victim died. In a statement, their lawyer, Shanin Specter, said they are "gratified by the Court's ruling and thorough analysis and look forward to discovery, trial and the ultimate vindication of these five fine men." The men had asked for

compensatory and punitive damages, saying Trump had knowingly defamed them, purposefully made false statements about them and sought to inflict severe emotional distress on them. Judge Beetlestone's order dismissed the claim for in-

tentional infliction of emotional distress.

Trump's lawyer, Karin Sweigart, in a statement called the lawsuit an "unfounded and meritless attack" on Trump. The judge's dismissal of certain claims is a "victory," Sweigart said, and vowed to "continue fighting to protect the First Amendment rights of not just the President, but all Americans."

In the request to dismiss the case, Sweigart had said the president's statements were protected under Pennsylvania laws that grant civil immunity over statements made on a "matter of public concern." Sweigart's request to dismiss also said Trump's statements were "substantially true," that he didn't dispute the men were ultimately exonerated and that he had only intended to portray his thinking in 1989 when, following the men having confessed, Trump purchased a full-page ad in The New York Times calling for the reinstatement of the death penalty. □

Ohio League of Women Voters wants pioneering female justice's portrait brought up from the basement

By **JULIE CARR SMYTH**

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The Ohio League of Women Voters urged the state's high court on Friday to relocate a portrait of the state's first female chief

justice from a new exhibit to be located in the courthouse basement back to the building's main hallway.

In a letter dripping with sarcasm, Executive Director Jen Miller told Ohio Su-

preme Court justices she was certain that they chose the location of their new Women in the Law display where retired Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor's portrait would be the centerpiece to emphasize the difficulties of being female. "Situating the exhibit so far from the history-making action happening above ground also sends a powerful message about the distance women must travel to reach success," she wrote, "inviting visitors to consider the fortitude required to make it out of the darkness of exclusion."

O'Connor's portrait initially stood in the court's Grand Concourse, alongside an otherwise all male lineup. But it recently was removed amid disagreements about its placement among justices. Miller suggested that

the court could commission a reproduction for use in the exhibit and return the original back upstairs.

Among the issues that have arisen with the portrait, by artist Paul Wyse, is that its carved walnut frame is freestanding so to be stood, rather than hung on a wall.

Miller otherwise commended the conservative-leaning court for supporting such an exhibit as "so many of those in leadership are abandoning expressions of diversity and inclusion," and said the league plans to widely promote it.

O'Connor, a Republican, sided with Democrats in a series of rulings finding GOP-drawn congressional and Statehouse maps unconstitutional, alienating many members of her own party. Last year, after retir-

ing because of age limits, she became the face of a proposed constitutional amendment to change the troubled political map-making process.

The measure failed in the face of forceful opposition from Ohio's Republican establishment.

In its announcement, the court said the Women in the Law exhibit to be located in the Thomas J. Moyer Judicial Center's "historic ground floor" will highlight women besides O'Connor, too.

Other female trailblazers include Florence Allen, the first woman to serve on the Ohio Supreme Court and the first woman appointed to a federal court of appeals; and Melody Stewart, the first Black woman elected to the high court. □



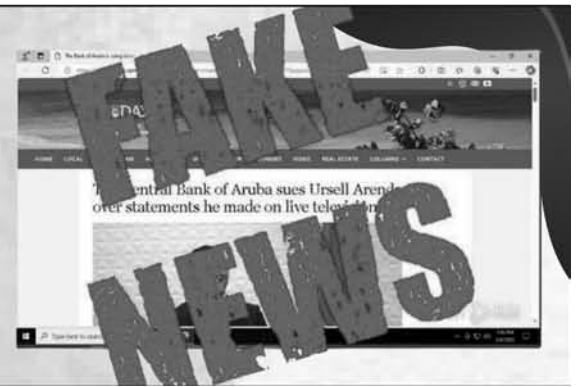
Ohio Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor is pictured in her chambers at the Ohio Supreme Court in Columbus, Ohio, on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022.

Associated Press

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European countries vow billions in military support for Ukraine as US envoy meets Putin

By LORNE COOK
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European countries vowed Friday to send billions of dollars in further funding to help Ukraine keep fighting Russia's invasion, as a U.S. envoy pursued peace efforts in a trip to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin amid growing questions about the Kremlin's willingness to stop the more than three-year war.

Russian forces hold the advantage in Ukraine, with the war now in its fourth year. Ukraine has endorsed a U.S. ceasefire proposal, but Russia has effectively blocked it by imposing far-reaching conditions. European governments have accused Putin of dragging his feet.

"Russia has to get moving" on the road to ending the war, U.S. President Donald Trump posted on social media. He said the war is "terrible and senseless."



Britain's Defense Secretary John Healey, left, talks with Ukraine's Defense Minister Rustem Umerov during a meeting of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Friday, April 11, 2025.

Associated Press

In Russia, the Kremlin said Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff met with Putin in St. Petersburg. Witkoff, who has been pressing the Kremlin

to accept a truce, initially met with Putin envoy Kirill Dmitriev, footage released by Russian media showed. White House press secretary

Karoline Leavitt said Witkoff during his visit to Russia was discussing efforts to end the war with Putin and other officials. "This is another step

in the negotiating process towards a ceasefire and an ultimate peace deal," she said.

Russian state news agency RIA Novosti said Witkoff's meeting with Putin lasted 4 1/2 hours, and cited the Kremlin as saying that the two discussed "aspects" of ending the war, without providing any details.

After chairing a meeting of Ukraine's Western backers in Brussels, British Defense Secretary John Healey said that new pledges of military aid totaled over 21 billion euros (\$24 billion), "a record boost in military funding for Ukraine, and we are also surging that support to the frontline fight."

Healey gave no breakdown of that figure, and Ukraine has in the past complained that some countries repeat old offers at such pledging conferences or fail to deliver real arms and ammunition worth the money they promise. □

Canadian police in British Columbia bust fentanyl labs, seize chemicals and equipment

SURREY, British Columbia (AP) — Three drug labs in Canada's Pacific coast province of British Columbia have been dismantled, police said Thursday, adding that two of the labs are believed to have been used to produce fentanyl while the purpose of the third remains "undetermined."

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police also arrested two suspects, including someone described as a "chemist," but no charges have yet been laid as the police investigation continues.

The Mounties say they executed "numerous" search warrants in late March and found the three labs, which were equipped with sophisticated equipment that is also used in "academic and professional research facilities."

Chief Supt. Stephen Lee, deputy regional commander of the RCMP federal policing program, said the commercial-grade chemistry equipment underscores "disturbing trends" in the increasing scientific sophistication of drug labs used by transnational organized crime groups.

Assistant Commissioner David Teboul said the drugs produced in the labs were not destined for the United States, but he couldn't reveal how police came to determine that since the investigation is ongoing.

The Mounties say they launched their probe into the importation of precursor chemicals and commercial laboratory equipment used for producing drugs including fentanyl, MDMA and GHB, in the summer of 2023. □



Commander of the RCMP Federal Policing program, in the Pacific Region, Assistant Commissioner David Teboul speaks during an RCMP news conference announcing fentanyl production labs that have been dismantled around British Columbia, in Surrey, British Columbia, Thursday, April 10, 2025.

Associated Press

The U.N. decries ongoing combat in Myanmar as earthquake relief faces big challenges

By **GRANT PECK**

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Human rights experts for the United Nations are expressing urgent concern about ongoing military operations in Myanmar's civil war, despite ceasefires called by major parties to facilitate relief efforts after the country's devastating March 28 earthquake.

At the same time, a new U.N. report said that because of the earthquake, the Southeast Asian country is facing increased humanitarian needs while a food shortage and a health crisis appear to be looming. "At a moment when the sole focus should be on ensuring humanitarian aid gets to disaster zones, the military is instead launching attacks," Ravina Shamdasani, a spokesperson for the U.N. Human Rights Office in Geneva said Friday. "Since the earthquake, military forces have reportedly carried out over 120 attacks more than half of them after their declared ceasefire was due to have gone into effect on 2 April." The U.N. agency said: "We call on the military authorities to remove any and all obstacles to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to cease military op-



People clean debris from damaged buildings in the aftermath of an earthquake on March 28, in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, Monday, April 7, 2025.

Associated Press

erations."

The death toll from the 7.7 magnitude quake and aftershocks reached 3,689, with 5,020 injured, Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun, a spokesperson for the military government, said Friday.

"The devastating earthquakes that struck Myanmar on 28 March have caused widespread death, human suffering and destruction aggravating an already alarming humanitarian crisis," declared a U.N. Humanitarian Needs

and Response Plan released Friday.

"Over 6.3 million people are in immediate need of humanitarian assistance and protection as a result of the earthquakes, including 4.3 million people who were already in need across the affected areas and now require even greater support, and an additional 2 million people who require urgent assistance and protection due to the earthquakes." It also warned that the quake hit Myanmar's main

food-producing regions, "destroying fields, irrigation, and grain stores.

Millions of livestock are at risk, and farmers now face the loss of both their harvest and their only source of income."

With disease already spreading, Myanmar is also at risk of a health emergency, especially as nearly 70 health facilities have been damaged, and there are severe shortages of medical supplies said the U.N. plan.

"Cases of diarrhea are rising, children and older people are falling ill from the heat, and concerns about cholera are growing, especially where bodies remain buried under the rubble in this extreme heat," it said.

Myanmar's military government and its battlefield opponents, which include pro-democracy fighters and ethnic minority guerrilla forces, have been trading accusations over alleged violations of ceasefire declarations each had declared to ease earthquake relief efforts.

Reports of continued fighting are widespread, with the army receiving the most criticism for continuing aerial bombing, according to independent Myanmar media and eyewitnesses.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the army's 2021 takeover ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, which led to nationwide peaceful protests that escalated into armed resistance and what now amounts to civil war.

The U.N. Human Rights Office's statement noted that most of the army's attacks "have involved aerial and artillery strikes, including in areas impacted by the earthquake." □

Thousands of children have been raped and sexually abused in eastern Congo, UNICEF says

By **MONIKA PRONCZUK**

Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — Thousands of children have been subjected to rape and sexual violence in conflict-battered eastern Congo over the course of two months, the U.N. children's agency said Friday, warning that existing funding gaps meant that hundreds of thousands were deprived of protection.

Children make up between 35% to 45% of the nearly 10,000 cases of rape and sexual violence reported January and



Women and children eat Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025 in a Goma, eastern Congo school where they found shelter after their soldier husbands and fathers were sent to Rumangabo for mixing and integration into the M23 rebel forces.

Associated Press

February this year, James Elder, the spokesperson for UNICEF told reporters in Geneva on Friday.

"In short, based on initial data (...) a child was raped every half an hour," Elder said.

He added that UNICEF faced significant funding gaps, which threatened care for hundreds of thousands children.

"If UNICEF is unable to fill the funding gap left after programs were terminated for key humanitarian services, 250,000 children will miss out on vital services for gender-based violence

and protection in armed conflict," he added. "We have 12 weeks."

The decades-long conflict in the central African nation of Congo escalated in January, when the M23 rebels advanced and seized the strategic eastern Congolese city of Goma, followed by the town of Bukavu in February. The fighting has killed some 3,000 people and raised the fears of a wider regional war. Sexual violence in Congo is used as "a weapon of war and a deliberate tactic of terror," Elder said on Thursday. □

ACF continues to invest in maintenance and improvement of Arikok National Park

(Oranjestad)—The Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF), an independent conservation management organization and the foundation responsible for overseeing, among others, the protected area of Arikok National Park, shares an update on ongoing maintenance and improvement efforts. As part of ACF's multi-year strategy, funds are being allocated together with the Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A.) and the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund (TPEF) to support various investments already underway. These efforts aim to responsibly maintain and enhance the experience for both employees and visitors, and to keep the park's facilities in optimal condition.

Work includes, among other things, maintenance and upgrades to the Vader Piet entrance, the visitor center at San Fuego, installation of signage with rules and regulations, improvement of various trails, and more. These projects are expected to be completed by October 2025.

Vader Piet Entrance

Currently, improvement work is underway at the Vader Piet entrance to elevate the experience for both visitors and staff. The entrance and control booth, established in 2010, serve as the permanent access point to Arikok National Park via San Nicolas. The upgrades include expanding the control booth to provide more space for staff to carry out their daily tasks, and transforming the entrance into a more attractive and informative area for visitors entering through San Nicolas.

Additionally, a public restroom accessible to people using wheelchairs will be created, and paving stones will be installed around the booth to reduce dust disturbance for both visitors and staff. Native plants and trees will soon be added to make the entrance more pleasant. The new design incorporates ACF's primary visual identity colors, inspired by Aruba's natural landscape. This project is funded by the Aruba



Conservation Foundation.

Rules and Regulations Signage

ACF has begun installing new signage outlining rules and regulations to ensure a safer and more responsible visit to Arikok National Park. These signs are a legal requirement

to inform visitors about the rules in protected areas. Signs have been installed at park entrances and key exploration points such as Quadirikiri Cave, the Natural Pool (Conchi), Boca Prins, and other locations.

The new signs include up-

dated rules, regulations, laws, and important messages about how to enjoy nature responsibly. Additionally, signs are being installed outside the park to indicate protected areas and what is or isn't permitted. Locations include Saliña Cerca, Saliña Malmok, Saliña Palm Beach, and Spaans Lagoen, among others. A total of 70 signs will be placed outside the park, of which 27 are already in place. New directional and trail signs are also being developed to guide visitors responsibly, whether on foot or by vehicle. This project is made possible thanks to funding from the Aruba Tourism Authority and the Aruba Conservation Foundation.

Improved Accessibility and Safety

To improve accessibility and safety for visitors to Arikok National Park, investments are being made in upgrading various stairways and railings in protected areas. Currently, a new railing is being finalized at Fuente, and next, the stairways and shelters at Conchi will be improved. These efforts ensure visitors

can explore the area as safely as possible while staying on marked trails, helping minimize human impact on nature.

The final phase will include upgrades to the stairways at Dos Playa, Boca Prins, and Quadirikiri Cave. This project is funded by the Aruba Tourism Authority and the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund and is expected to be completed by October 2025.

Introduction of Conservation Café and Concept Store

As part of ACF's strategic plan to transition to sustainable nature experiences, ACF will introduce themed, eco-friendly cafés that incorporate conservation messages into the visitor experience. Construction and renovation of the first Conservation Café at the Visitor Center began in April 2025 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of July 2025.

This new addition will enhance the visitor experience and offer a unique and creative way to learn about and connect with Aruba's nature.

Simultaneously, ACF is working on introducing a 'concept store' similar to a merchandise shop, to be located at the Visitor Center in Arikok National Park. The store will offer various items essential for active, educational, and lifestyle use, in collaboration with local artisans. It is expected to be ready by August 2025. This project is funded by the Aruba Conservation Foundation.

These maintenance and improvement works began in 2025 and will continue into 2026. Through these efforts, ACF ensures greater value for visitors and staff of Arikok National Park, while also contributing to the conservation of Aruba's natural environment.

For more information, contact the Aruba Conservation Foundation at info@acf.aw or visit their social media pages on Facebook or Instagram. □



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Aruba Tourism Authority honored a loyal visitor at Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitor of Aruba. The honoree was respectfully honored with a certificate for her years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
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The honoree was:

Distinguished Visitor
Ms. Jacqueline Gallagher from Vero Beach Florida, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honoree, presented her with gifts, and thanked

her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination, as her home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree was:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's weather.
- "Love my timeshare"
- "Family and friends"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for her continued visits to the "One Happy Island".

Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book,



The History of Alto Vista by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was

the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of

the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call



Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past.

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Aruba to me

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Silvia Sperling Canabarro and Ubirajara Pirillo Canabarro from Porto Alegre, Brasil.

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is: irreplaceable!

One day, many years ago, we came to Aruba in search of sunny days without the risk of storms or hurricanes. From that visit on, we never stopped coming back to this incredible island. We return regularly, eager to enjoy our special little secluded spots with emerald green sea. We long to arrive here, rent a car, go to the apartment facing the beautiful Eagle Beach, do our grocery shopping, savor the dishes from our favorite restaurants and the delicious beers, enjoy the day on the beautiful beaches, and play at the casinos at the end of the day.



These breaks in Aruba throughout the years make our life lighter and more beautiful — that's why this is our 18th visit. We don't need any other place in the world

to feel that life is worth it."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history



(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where

most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in

1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique

method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short lifespan: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant.

Sources: Etnia Nativa & goldminer-anch.com.



Place names in San Nicolas and their origins

(Oranjestad)--If you're ever taking a tour of Aruba, San Nicolas would definitely be on your itinerary. From relaxing on the white, sandy beaches of Baby and Roger's Beach, to exploring the prehistoric caves of Quadirikiri and Fontein, you are taking in a full view of what San Nicolas has to offer. But did you know that you are also passing through areas whose names have historical origins? Here are a few place names in San Nicolas and their origin story.

Sero Colorado

On your way to Baby or Roger's Beach, you'll pass by the famous Red Anchor at what was once the entrance to the Colony residential community and be greeted with red soiled hills by the coast. This is Sero Colorado. Named after the 30-meter, deep red, limestone hill, "Sero Colorado" translates to "Colored Hill". Sero Colorado has deep historical ties with the once-thriving phosphate industry in the area. Matter of fact,



there are still underground shafts and passages deep in Sero Colorado from the time of phosphate mining. In 1958, the refinery at the time, Lago, adopted this name for the residential section of its employees.

Vader Piet

Another well visited area, Vader Piet is located in the Arikok National Park. Rec-

ognizable sites within this area includes the Wind Mills and the Quadirikiri Cave. The origin of this name is part historical and speculation, as there are slight deviations from what actually happened.

In 1829, Pieter Lampe was a planter and the person responsible for governing this remote area. As the story

goes, Pieter was well known and beloved for his kindness and good treatment of his employees, and was therefore also called Vader Piet (Father Piet). However, he was tragically murdered—some speculate at the hands of a slave. For his work and good heart, the area was named after him.

San Nicolas

Of course we can't forget San Nicolas itself. Much like Vader Piet, the origin of the name San Nicolas has so far two different accounts. In the literal sense, "San Nicolas" translates to "Saint Nicolas", leading many to believe that this district was named after a Spanish saint. Though one account does support this with the theory that the district was named after the saint by Spanish colonizers, the other account is much less divine, but does refer to an influential figure in the area.

Nicolaas van der Biest was a successful landowner during the time of the phosphate boom in late 19th century Aruba. Back then, landowners (most, if not all of them men) were referred to as "Shon" by their subordinates. So, the district was originally named after Shon Nicolaas. Over time, the name evolved into what is now San Nicolas. □

Source: "Aruba: Short History" by Dr. J. Hartog.

How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate



around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the

beaches in the south—the

areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

Why north deep, but south shallow?

Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing.

Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom. □

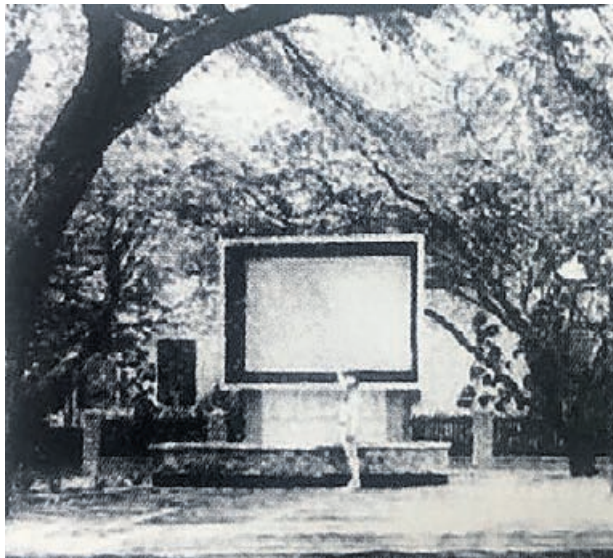
Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).



Forgotten gems Open air movie theaters

(Oranjestad)—During the span of over 100 years, Aruba only saw five open air movie theatres. Now practically obsolete on the island, these theaters were once frequently visited by locals and migrants in the 20th century.

The first open air theater was constructed in 1920 and was commissioned by Shon Eduard (Eddy) de Veer. This theater was located at the Hotel Colombia in Oranjestad, which is now where the Aruban census office is located. The



theater was simple; it only consisted of a screen, and visitors had to bring their own chairs to enjoy the popular silent movies of the time.

American migrants who worked in the refinery and lived in the Lago Colony in Sero Colorado also had their piece of the pie with their Open air Theatre, which formed part of the Esso Club, also known as the Pan-Am Club. It was at this theater that "Talkies" were first streamed, movies with sound. This theater mostly streamed American blockbusters for the American expats, this way making sure that these migrant were not missing out on entertainment from their home land.

In the 1950's and 60's, Savaneta saw their own open air theater, located in front of the Mariner's Kazerne (Marine Barracks). This theater was mostly visited by the neighboring marines, who didn't have much entertainment other than movies at that time.

The last and most recent open air theater was constructed in the form of a drive-in theater. A popular American concept, the Drive Inn located in Balashi was a hot spot for teenagers, who had the habit of cramming all their friends



in one car to go see the movies. For this phenomenon there was a separate price that you had to pay called the "car crash".

This theater closed around 2012, but was re-opened during the pandemic in July 2020, where movies were streamed on a gigantic screen set up in front of stacked containers. However, this nostalgic form of entertainment did not last very long as it was closed again only a year or two later. Nowadays you can still see the stacked containers when you drive near the bridge in Balashi. □

Source: "De kolibrie op de rots en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba" by Evert Bongers.

Meet Aruba's biggest hero Boy Ecury

(Oranjestad)—This past May 4th, Aruba as well as The Netherlands commemorated those who sadly perished during the Second World War. As is known around the globe, this chapter in world history is one of the most tragic yet, and many soldiers and rebels have died on the frontline during this time.

One of those rebels who have fought against the Nazi regime, was an Aruban named Segundo Jorge Adelberto "Boy" Ecury. Born in Aruba on April 23rd, 1922, Boy spent his childhood on the island, before being sent to The Netherlands by his father when he was 15 years old to continue his studies abroad. This was in 1937, three years before WWII broke out.

During the war, he actively participated in the rebellion in The Netherlands against the Nazi regime, but his rebellious streak and constant drive to fight for justice began even before the war broke out. Being a person of color with a Haitian heritage living in The Netherlands made him vulnerable to discrimination, and this inspired him to be an activist, to stand up and fight against discrimination and oppression.



After seeing the horrific bombings of Rotterdam first-hand, he decided to join the resistance. At the same time, he was still studying and living with family in Tilburg. It was there where he met people who printed and distributed the rebellion newspaper. This would be the first of three rebellion group that he would join throughout his 4-year service to the resistance.

Boy's primary task as member of the group was to distract the German soldiers while others ran into hiding into alleyways. This he was able to do because of his skin color and confronting demeanor. Boy also participated in the multiple sabotaging operations against the German military occupying The Netherlands. These included bombings on German military

trucks and trains. The group also helped people go into hiding, as well as opened fire against allies of the Nazi regime. In these operations, Boy really stood out for his cold bloodedness.

In 1943, he received a notice to be placed for work in Germany. This he refused, of course, and went into hiding using multiple addresses in multiple cities. Because he was a wanted man, he of course could not continue to be active as a rebel. However, stubborn and naturally rebellious as he was, he always tried to join in on the operations regardless.

In 1944, after his friend Luis de Lanoy, a fellow rebel from Curacao, was arrested and executed, he moved to Delft, where he joined his third and last group in Rotterdam. During this time, he wrote a goodbye letter for his family, possibly knowing the risks of him being active again in the big cities. Eventually, he proved himself right. On November 5th, 1944, Boy Ecury was arrested by German soldiers. He was placed in the "Oranjestad" prison in Scheveningen, The Hague, where he was questioned. Despite being given away by an acquaintance, he himself never



gave away the names of his comrades. Famously, he told his cell mate: "I will die with a smile on my face."

On November 6th, 1944, Ecury was executed. He was only 22 years old.

Ecury was buried with military honor. In 1949, the Aruban Government erected a monumental bust of him in front of what is now the linear park trail, and in 1984 he received the Resistance Memorial Cross postmortem.

Boy's life motto was this: "In my father's house, there is no place for a traitor." □

Source: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mausoleum
 - 5 Tater
 - 9 Racer
 - 10 Surgery tool
 - 12 Even a little
 - 13 Be penitent
 - 14 Tear up the dance floor
 - 16 Card spot
 - 17 G.I. fare
 - 18 "Don't be ridiculous!"
 - 20 Give one's okay
 - 22 Sole
 - 23 Passionate dance
 - 25 Diva's piece
 - 28 Start
 - 32 "Beat it!"
 - 34 Verb for you
 - 35 Gardner of film
 - 36 Avenge oneself
 - 38 Like the icecaps
 - 40 Choose
 - 41 Select group
- DOWN**
- 1 Spuds
 - 2 Gives an address
 - 3 Not too spicy
 - 4 Deli buy
 - 5 Bias
 - 6 Contrived
 - 7 Annual golf event
 - 8 Turn-down
 - 9 Molten stuff
 - 11 Answer
 - 15 Sign of a healthy dog, maybe
 - 19 Plant part
 - 21 List-ending abbr.
 - 24 Edges of alleys
 - 25 Clearly stunned
 - 26 Rise up
 - 27 Venezia's nation
 - 29 Get for less
 - 30 Puts up
 - 31 Campout sights
 - 33 Story meanies
 - 37 Lamb's alias
 - 39 Cash dispenser



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-15 CRYPTOQUOTE

C Z H X Q Z R P Q U H V ,
V Y T F H Z O J H N Q R J Q
U Y I P M . — B H J H R B H
X H Z M J C

Cryptoquote: YOUR WIDE EYES ARE THE ONLY LIGHT I KNOW FROM EXTINGUISHED CONSTELLATIONS. — PABLO NERUDA

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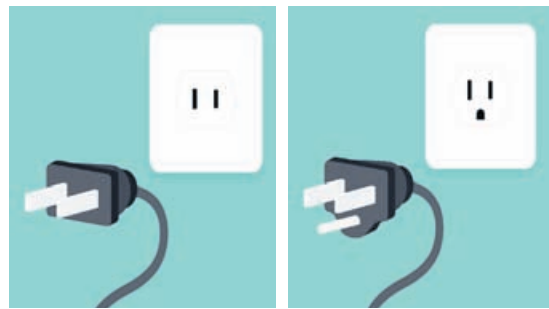
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH		
THU	10	AIDALUNA	08.00	18.00	C	1	
FRI	11	ENCHANTMENT OF THE SEAS	13.30	23.00	C	1	
SUN	13	CORAL PRINCESS	09.00	18.00	B	1	
		CELEBRITY BEYOND	09.00	23.00	C	1	
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	G	-	
TUE	15	CELEBRITY REFLECTION	08.00	23.00	B	1	
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1	

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Scientists map part of a mouse's brain that's so complex it looks like a galaxy



This photo provided by the Allen Institute shows, from left, Associate Director of Informatics Forrest Collman, Data Analyst Leila Elabbady and Senior Investigator Clay Reid reviewing neuron reconstructions for the Machine Intelligence from Cortical Networks project in Dec. 2024, in Seattle, Wash.

Associated Press

By LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Thanks to a mouse watching clips from "The Matrix," scientists have created the largest functional map of a brain to date: a diagram of the wiring connecting 84,000 neurons as they fire off messages.

Using a piece of that mouse's brain about the size of a poppy seed, the researchers identified those neurons and traced how they communicated via branch-like fibers through a surprising 500 million junctions called synapses.

The massive dataset, published Wednesday by the journal Nature, marks a

step toward unraveling the mystery of how our brains work. The data, assembled in a 3D reconstruction colored to delineate different brain circuitry, is open to scientists worldwide for additional research and for the simply curious to take a peek.

"It definitely inspires a sense of awe, just like looking at pictures of the galaxies," said Forrest Collman of the Allen Institute for Brain Science in Seattle, one of the project's leading researchers. "You get a sense of how complicated you are. We're looking at one tiny part ... of a mouse's brain and the beauty and complexity that you can see in these actual neurons and

the hundreds of millions of connections between them."

How we think, feel, see, talk and move are due to neurons, or nerve cells, in the brain how they're activated and send messages to each other. Scientists have long known those signals move from one neuron along fibers called axons and dendrites, using synapses to jump to the next neuron. But there's less known about the networks of neurons that perform certain tasks and how disruptions of that wiring could play a role in Alzheimer's, autism or other disorders.

"You can make a thousand hypotheses about how brain cells might do their job but you can't test those hypotheses unless you know perhaps the most fundamental thing — how are those cells wired together," said Allen Institute scientist Clay Reid,

who helped pioneer electron microscopy to study neural connections.

With the new project, a global team of more than 150 researchers mapped neural connections that Collman compares to tangled pieces of spaghetti winding through part of the mouse brain responsible for vision. □



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Mariah Carey on new music, Rihanna, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and her lost grunge album

By MARIA SHERMAN
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It may be hard to conceive of now, but there was once a lull in Mariah Carey's superstar career. In 2001, her film "Glitter" was a commercial flop; the album that followed, 2002's introspective "Charmbracelet," was met with a muted response. She was at a crossroads. And then everything changed. Carey released "The Emancipation of Mimi" in 2005. It joined her athletic R&B-pop with synth-y hip-hop and fun, flirty, enduring hits she was now only belting when she wanted to, thank you very much. She sounded free, as the title suggested, and the world embraced her for it once again.

On Saturday, the album turns 20. To celebrate, Carey is gearing up to release deluxe, expanded editions of the album on May 30, featuring bonus tracks, new remixes and much more including the official release of "When I Feel It," a song fans have been waiting for since 2005. It was originally planned for "The Emancipation of Mimi" but was ultimately shelved because of clearance issues with its sample of The Dynamic Supers' "Here Comes That Feeling." "These are new gems, as far as I'm concerned," Carey says. "It's exciting to me."

Carey discussed "The



Mariah Carey performs at Barclays Center in the Brooklyn borough of New York on Dec. 17, 2024.

Associated Press

Emancipation of Mimi," her recent nomination to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Rihanna and plans for new music with The Associated Press. The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Has your relationship to "The Emancipation of Mimi" changed over the years?

CAREY: It's still one of my favorite albums that I've done. And, you know, back then when it first came out, everybody was call-

ing it a comeback album. ... I didn't really agree, because you never think you've gone anywhere. You know what I mean?

I just always really loved the songs and the performances. People seem to really be into it. And new fans came from that album.

AP: I hear a lot of creative freedom on that album. Do you think it revitalized your career?

CAREY: I do think it's got a fun feeling to it and it definitely feels free. I guess it

sort of revitalized my career. I spent a while making that album ... working with some great people, some great collaborators. ... It was an experience that I'll never forget, creating that album.

AP: In June, you'll celebrate another anniversary. Your self-titled debut turns 35. When you think back on that time, did you envision this career?

CAREY: I don't know. I really was just so involved and entrenched in making

the music and this new career that I was embarking on. And it was amazing. I mean, it's what I had wanted to do for my whole life. And then I was doing it.

AP: You're also a 2025 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame nominee.

CAREY: That's a huge honor. I don't know if I'm going to win it, so I don't want to get too excited about it. So, I just want to say that, again, it's a huge honor and I guess I didn't expect it. I wasn't really thinking about it. And here we are.

AP: It seems like the Rock Hall has become more fluid in their definitions of genre over the years. Missy Elliott was inducted in 2023, for example.

CAREY: I don't really know if genre matters. I feel like people are more open to all different genres, much more than they were, you know? But I feel like a rock star sometimes.

AP: You know, after Dolly Parton was inducted, she released a rock album. If and when you are inducted, will you finally release your '90s grunge album? Fans have been waiting.

CAREY: I mean, I really want to, but I want to do videos, and I have just so many ideas for that. I don't think I'll be able to pull it together by the summer (before the Rock Hall ceremony) but maybe, maybe I'll release a few songs from it. □

Live from London, it's Saturday night! 'SNL' taking sketch comedy across the pond



Lorne Michaels attends the SNL50: The Homecoming Concert at Radio City Music Hall on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025, in New York.

Associated Press

By BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Live from London, it's Saturday night!

Wait, London? You heard that correctly. "Saturday Night Live" announced Thursday that it plans to launch a British version of the U.S. sketch comedy show that is celebrating its 50th anniversary across the pond.

The U.K. version, produced with Sky Studios, will have a British cast of comedians to be announced later and follow the same format with famous guest hosts and star musical acts.

"SNL" creator Lorne Michaels will be the executive producer of "Saturday Night Live UK," while staying in the same role with the show on NBC in New York.

"For over 50 years 'Saturday Night Live' has held a unique position in TV and in our collective culture, reflecting and creating the global conversation, all under the masterful comedic guidance of Lorne Michaels," said Cecile Frot-Coutaz, chief executive of Sky Studios. "We are thrilled to be partnering with Lorne and the 'SNL' team to bring an all-British version of the show to UK audiences next year all live from London on Saturday night." □

Caitlin Clark and the Fever vs. Angel Reese and the Sky will tip off new WNBA Rivals Week in August

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Caitlin Clark and the Indiana Fever will face Angel Reese and the Chicago Sky in prime time to tip off the inaugural WNBA Rivals Week in August.

Other games will include two between New York and Minnesota in a WNBA Finals rematch; a matchup of projected No. 1 draft pick Paige Bueckers and Dallas against Clark's Fever; and Atlanta's Brittney Griner facing her old Phoenix squad.

The week will be sponsored by Ally Financial, a new partner for the league this season.

"You can have a great partnership, but you also have to have great activation," WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert said in a Zoom interview. "There's going to be a full slate of games that week and that's going to be a cool part of the activation."

Rivalry week games will be broadcast on a variety of networks, starting with the prime-time game between the Fever and Sky on CBS on Aug. 9.

"The timing of that week is



UConn guard Paige Bueckers holds up a piece of the net after the Huskies defeated South Carolina in the national championship game at the Final Four of the women's NCAA college basketball tournament, Sunday, April 6, 2025, in Tampa, Fla.

critical, because in August you start to really make that playoff push," Engelbert said.

"So it would be great to have those matchups during that period to drive that playoff push into September and crown a champion in October."

The NBA has had a Rivals Week for three years.

Engelbert has mentioned in the past how important

rivalries can be to grow the sport. The league started the Commissioner's Cup in 2021 and that in-season tournament has helped spawn rivalries between New York and Las Vegas as well as the Liberty and Lynx over the past few seasons.

"To have two teams who are just competing extremely hard every single time they match up and every time you watch is

great basketball," Bueckers said.

"So I think it was a perfect opportunity to start that there's so many great rivalries in the league.

This isn't Ally's first foray into women's basketball. It was one of the inaugural partners with the 3-on-3 Unrivaled league that finished its first season last month. The conversations with the WNBA started years before

Unrivaled came into existence.

"What Cathy and her team have done with the league, the cultural currency of the players, the media connectivity, the entire ecosystem, is just phenomenal," said Andrea Brimmer, Ally Financial's chief marketing officer. "To me it's kind of the crown jewel of what's happening in the women's sports space."

Ally has made it a mission to give equal advertising dollars to men's and women's sports.

"This very intentional focus on women's sports has been something that have been not only words but deeds behind it," Brimmer said. "The ability to come on as the new sponsor of the WNBA for us is adding another jewel to the family."

Ally also signed Bueckers, the UConn star, to an endorsement deal. The company already has deals with WNBA players Breanna Stewart and Sydney Colson.

"Partnering with Ally is about more than just banking it's about people to make their money work smarter," Bueckers said. □

Joe Flacco is returning to the Cleveland Browns on a 1-year deal

CLEVELAND (AP) — Joe Flacco is heading back to Cleveland.

The veteran NFL quarterback agreed to terms with the Browns on a one-year deal on Friday. Flacco will have a base salary of \$4 million but can earn more with incentives.

He won the league's Comeback Player of the Year award in 2023 after leading an inspiring late-season surge that carried the Browns to the playoffs for only the second time since their return in 1999.

Flacco, 40, spent last season in Indianapolis, throwing for 12 touchdowns and seven interceptions in eight games, including a 2-4 mark as a starter.

The Browns are in flux at quarterback with Deshaun

Watson potentially missing the entire season as he recovers from a ruptured Achilles tendon suffered in January, just three months after he initially injured the tendon against Cincinnati. Cleveland acquired former Pittsburgh Steelers first-round draft pick Kenny Pickett in a trade with Philadelphia. Pickett started one game last season for the Eagles while backing up Jalen Hurts. He was 14-10 as a starter in two years with the Steelers.

The well-traveled Flacco has bounced around since his prime in Baltimore in the 2010s, a stretch in which he led the Ravens to a Super Bowl. He spent a year in Denver, three with the New York Jets, one in Cleveland and one in Indianapolis.

Now it's back to the Browns, who made the somewhat curious decision not to resign him after he went 4-1 as a starter in 2023 and averaged more than 300 yards passing per game. They decided to stick with the problematic Watson instead, a decision that has backfired repeatedly since they sent a bevy of first-round picks to Houston for him and then signed him to a massive deal that looks like one of the worst in NFL history.

Cleveland owner Jimmy Haslam admitted recently that the team took a big swing for Watson and missed badly.

"We've got to dig ourselves out of that hole," Haslam said in March.

The Browns hold the sec-

ond overall pick in the NFL draft in two weeks following a disastrous 3-14 season. While there may be a couple of high-profile quarterbacks available in what is

considered a quarterback-light draft, there's a good chance Cleveland sees what they have in Pickett and decide to add talent elsewhere on the roster. □



Cleveland Browns quarterback Joe Flacco throws in the second half of an NFL football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars, on Dec. 10, 2023, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

Rory McIlroy catches fire, shoots 66 to get back into contention at the Masters

By DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Rory McIlroy's fragile mental state got a big boost when he left Augusta National on Thursday night, shortly after a pair of late double bogeys had cast a pall on an otherwise brilliant round, in time to put his 4-year-old daughter, Poppy, to bed. It got another when he arrived on Friday and spoke with famed sports psychologist Bob Rotella. His advice to McIlroy: Be patient.

The 35-year-old Northern Irishman did exactly that during his second round of the Masters, methodically touring the first nine before catching fire on the second. He made three birdies and an eagle down the stretch, resulting in a 6-under 66 that put him right back in contention as McIlroy tries to chase down the only leg missing from the career Grand Slam.

"I think overall just proud of myself with how I responded today after the finish last night," said McIlroy, who after so many close calls seems to be the sentimental favorite if not the outright one to finally win a green jacket.

"I just had to remind myself that I played really good golf yesterday, and you know, I wasn't going to let, you know, two bad holes sort of dictate the narrative for the rest of the week. But yeah, just ultimately proud



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, watches his tee shot on the 12th hole during the second round at the Masters golf tournament, Friday, April 11, 2025, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

of how I got back into it today."

McIlroy's run began at the 10th, when he stuck his approach within 2 feet. It continued at the next, when a 351-yard drive set up another good approach that McIlroy stuck to 5 feet for another birdie. On the par-3 12th, he was fortunate to see his tee shot bounce out of the bushes left of the green, leaving him with an up-and-down opportunity to save par.

Then came the reachable par-5 13th, where McIlroy's drive found the pine straw right of the fairway.

He had a good lie and nothing in his way, though,

and about 190 yards to the front of the green. McIlroy went back and forth between his 4-iron and 5-iron, ultimately settled on the 4, and then thought for one frightful moment that a slight mishit might not have enough oomph to carry it past the water fronting the green.

"I was like: 'You idiot. What did you do?'" McIlroy said. "It's a pin that even if you do hit it into the hazard, it's a pretty not a routine up-and-down, but a little easier than, say, where the pin was yesterday in that front section. "Yeah," McIlroy said, "I rode my luck a little bit with that second

shot, but was nice to take advantage of it."

McIlroy added another birdie at the par-5 15th, where his chip from behind the green Thursday took a big hop, picked up speed and rolled all the way into the water. It was the first of his two double bogeys down the stretch, and to come back and birdie the same hole less than 24 hours later underscored the way McIlroy was able to bounce back Friday.

"He just kind of had it going. He didn't make many mistakes," said Akshay Bhatia, who played in the same group. "He drove it on a rope the first two days

when I played with him. It's really cool to see. He's the best driver in our game."

It was the sixth time that McIlroy shot 66 or better at the Masters, moving into a tie with Jack Nicklaus and Jordan Spieth for the second most in tournament history. Tiger Woods has eight such rounds and five green jackets.

Perhaps by the end of the weekend, McIlroy will have one, too.

Justin Rose continued to lead the way, following his opening 65 with a 1-under 71 to reach 8 under. Bryson DeChambeau was one shot back after his 68 on Friday. Then came McIlroy, right behind them on a leaderboard filled with big names.

He was quick to caution that leading on Friday is not the same as leading on Sunday. McIlroy has been in that position, too, and failed to finish the job. But he gave himself a chance with a stellar second round, and that was all he really wanted.

"Again, golf tournaments are so long, and there's so much that can happen, even in the next 36 holes," McIlroy said. "My mindset was: 'I shot even par yesterday. I probably need to get to somewhere between 12- and 15-under to win this tournament.'"

"You know, there was plenty of time to do that. So yeah, again, just about staying patient." □



Former New York Yankees' Andy Pettitte is seen during Yankees Old-Timers' Day ceremony before a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

Schumaker, Pettitte, Holliday to be US coaches at next year's World Baseball Classic

Former Miami Marlins manager Skip Schumaker will be the U.S. bench coach and former New York Yankees star Andy Pettitte will be pitching coach for manager Mark DeRosa at next year's World Baseball Classic.

Matt Holliday, a seven-time All-Star and the father of Baltimore infielder Jackson Holliday, will be hitting coach, USA Baseball said Friday.

Dino Ebel returns from DeRosa's 2023 staff as third base coach and George Lombard will be first base coach.

DeRosa's staff also includes former major league managers Fredi González (assistant manager) and David Ross (bullpen coach) along with Brian McCann and Michael Young as assistant managers.

The tournament runs from March 5-17 with games played in Houston, Miami, Tokyo and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Japan is defending champion. □